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Volume 18, Issue 12

THE UNDERGROUND

www.scar.utoronto.ca/homes/underground/

Tuesday, November 23, 1998

Lisa at Pat Hall: A performer at the Kitty Society Apollo Night talent show. (See story on page 11.) — Jaime Poniewozik

ARC plans underway

Students may soon be paying for project

Lisa Gardner
Asst. News Editor

Scarborough students may have to partially foot the bill for the proposed Academic Resource Center (ARC) project as early as next year. Essentially, 12.5 per cent of the funding for the $8 million innovation will be via a 5 year levy of $50 per student per year, while the remaining 87.5 per cent will be allocated from the university's capital fund for the year 2004 Academic Plan account (about $1.2 million), and from external donors. Plans for the project call for the extension and expansion of the existing Bladen Library to encompass approximately 11,500 square feet of new space for students ranging from 150 solitary and computer spaces to group study and reading rooms. In addition, a 400-seat lecture hall for multi-media instruction, two new multi-media classrooms equipped with 40 computers, and a media village incorporating new guidance tools and access to resources.

"We have prospects for funding waiting to see results," says Tom Nowers, Associate Vice Principal of Student Affairs, referring to the outcome of next year's referendum when students will have their chance to cast their votes on whether the implementation of the new ARC should be a 'go-ahead' or not. According to Nowers, if the majority vote yes, then the construction of the ARC could begin in the fall of next year. This means that students would then begin paying for the project that same fall.

Currently, SAC does not have an official position concerning the ARC, however, Martine St. Louis, SAC Scarborough Chair, feels that the ARC offers little to no benefits for senior students who will have already graduated prior to the completion: "Senior students aren't even going to have a chance to see it," she says.

However, Liam Mitchell, CSCR Station Manager and member of the Marketing Committee, contends that graduates will be welcome to use the ARC's facilities as alumni: "Just because students won't be taking classes from Scarborough does not mean they won't be needing this...learning is an active pursuit and doesn't stop after graduation," he says.

"Students will always have a vested interest in the institution they graduate from," says Nowers. He feels that students will be investing in the continued future growth of Scarborough Campus by supporting the ARC project and at the same time re-assuring its innovative reputation. Andrea Moffat, Vice President of SAC, feels that a $50 levy is too much.

"We're looking into how other universities have paid for things like this and how Scarborough students

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what's inside?

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Celebrating student achievement

Nadia Alam
Staff

The University of Toronto at Scarborough commemorated its top student achievers with its annual Honours Night last Wednesday night, November 18th. The evening was marked by the procession of faculty in their royal blue academic gowns, a soaring selection performed by Scarborough's Chamber Choir and refreshments over which all who were present laughed and mingled.

Honours Night recognizes students who have won admission or in-course scholarships, who have landed on the Dean's list—who have gained distinction of a scholastic nature. Prizes were donated by local companies like Mr. Sub, the local Lions Club, Rohm and Haas Canada, as well as private endowments commemorating notable individuals like the Gilchrist Prizes in Science.

"Basically, as long as this college has been around, we have had a ceremony to celebrate the academic achievements of the students here," said Professor Ian McDonald, Associate Dean, who had given the welcome address at the Night. "We have done this over the years in different ways."

Honours Night has evolved from a small brunch hosted by the principal, to a dinner where the winners would sit with faculty members and sponsors, to a social reception, to the ceremony it has become now. "There was an element of formality added with the faculty procession, the address or remarks—this year, the address was delivered by MaryAnne V. Chambers, the Vice-Chair of the Governing Council, an alumni of the College who is now the Vice President of the Bank of Nova Scotia. It was a real honour to have her there. And it was nice to see the college maturing academically. In a nutshell, we have tried to make it into a ceremonial kind of event emphasizing academic achievement," added McDonald.

Heidi Calder, the Senior Alumni and Development Officer, coordinated this year's Honours Night. The evening marked Calder's first try at pulling together this event. When all was said and done, she was pleased with the results. "It was nice to see the faculty in their regalia. Scarborough needs to do something like this to honour staff and faculty and students... we tried to pretty it [the Meeting Place] up with balloons and banners as best as possible. The students I spoke with afterwards thought it was better like this, some-

See **ACHIEVEMENT**, *page 2*

Campus groups disturbed by homophobic pamphlet

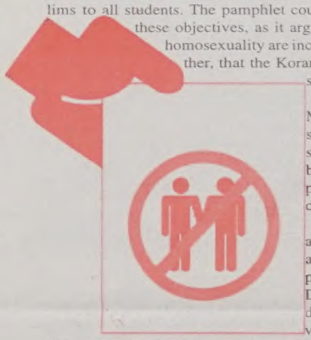
LGBTout seeks effective response

Brook Land-Murphy
Asst. News Editor

A pamphlet titled "Islam and Homosexuality" stirred up campus groups and Student Affairs at U of T. The homophobic newsletter was distributed during Islam Awareness Week. While university administration took a conservative stance, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered of U of T (LGBTout) urged for a stronger response.

Last week, during Islam Awareness Week, the Muslim Student's Association planned a number of forums. Some of these were held at the Sidney Smith building at the St. George campus. Outside one such event, the "Islam and Homosexuality" pamphlets were distributed.

MSA's objectives for Islam Awareness Week were to unveil the truth about the stereotypes of Islam and Muslims to all students. The pamphlet could be said to meet these objectives, as it argued that Islam and homosexuality are incompatible, and further, that the Koran condemns homosexuality.



Andrea Moffat, SAC spokesperson, stated, "A student brought [the pamphlet] over and was concerned with it."

"Nobody's really brought it to our attention as a complaint," said Jim Delaney from Student Affairs, the division that is responsible for an inquiry into the matter should one be deemed necessary.

The university's policy is one of minimal intervention. It will not intervene with a group's activities on the basis of its expressed philosophies or beliefs, unless these lead to illegal activities. Delaney stated that "although that's our guiding principle, that doesn't mean we wouldn't look into [the situation]." The MSA being recognized by the university as a campus group does not imply the university's endorsement of their ideas. The university aims to foster diversity through this basic stance.

That was not a strong enough committment for Bonte Minnema, a spokesperson for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexuals at U of T. Minnema suggested that the issue be dealt with through "education, awareness and dialogue."

Minnema is not optimistic that this will occur. "I'm afraid that any stance they take will be an ineffective one," he denounced. He cited that their response to the opposition of the 'positive-space' campaign has faced on campus as testimony to this. "The university...has not effectively spoken out against it officially, although many [individuals] have done it personally," said Minnema.

The university sees itself as caught between two interest groups. Minnema argued that there is no necessary conflict between the two. That is, one can be both a happy, healthy Muslim and a homosexual. "The perception that these are incompatible arose from the fact that the visible homosexual community is largely white," he stated. Minnema cited the backlash against open Muslim gays within the Muslim community as a possible cause of the statistic.

It could not be determined whether MSA was directly responsible for the pamphlet's appearance. As of press time, MSA could not be reached for comment.

Honours Night at Scarborough

ACHIEVEMENT *from page 1*

thing that, like this, was kind of formal. A lot of them stayed afterwards to soak it in."

Nonetheless, she did feel that the evening was a bit rushed. "We seemed to be churning students through, especially the scholarship winners. It was hard to give everybody their day, their just due. We were cognizant of the fact that some families were waiting only to see their son or daughter come on stage. Some had driven quite a ways to be here and were wanting to get back home before twelve." McDonald agreed: "It's a hazard from the sheer number of prize-winners... there must be close to four or five hundred people. There has been an enormous increase from the earlier days when there were far fewer students."

Were she given the freedom, Calder supposed that she would limit the number of awards presented, or perhaps, divide the reception of the awards over two or so nights. She felt that the admission scholarships could be held earlier in the Fall with a separate evening for the discipline awards. "[I'd] keep them as stand-alone events. It's important that we [at U of T] let those people [the award recipients] have a chance to get up in the limelight, and that we as an institute be seen as being properly appreciative of the donations. In some cases, the sponsors and the student met for the first time on the stage, and it was difficult to hook them up later over refreshments so that the student could properly thank the sponsor... putting it all in one big night is not the way to do it."

Calder has worked at the St. George campus for the last nine years, and has found her move to Scarborough to be a pleasant change .

"There is more you can do here; you can make a bigger impact. You can touch people more easily. Downtown, people hide under a façade, or they hide behind voice mail, and you can't get to know them. Here, you can," she said.

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You can also vote on-line at www.scar.utoronto.ca/depts/advancement/graditude.htm, or simply find us under "Alumni" from the Scarborough home page.

Jody Townsend, Varsha Thakur, Mike Chwalek, Vinitha Gengatharan
1999 GRADitude Campaign Chairs

GRADitude

NEWS

Martin under pressure to reinvest into education

Alex Bustos
CUP - Ottawa

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin is enduring increasing pressure from student leaders and social activists to do the responsible thing and increase transfer payments to the provinces. Facing a $10-billion surplus in the first six months of the current economic year, the federal Liberals are also being pressured from fiscal conservatives to reduce taxes.

"The cautious and prudent approach for Martin would be to return transfer payments to [1993 levels]," said Jennifer Story, National Deputy chairwoman for the Canadian Federation of Students. "And the reason I say it's prudent is because the gap between the rich and poor is widening . . . and social transfers are a social equalizer."

A recent study by the Centre for Social Justice suggests the gap between Canada's rich and poor has increased by more than 10 times since 1973. Last week, the Canadian Federation of Students released numbers showing part-time university enrolment has decreased 2.9 per cent since 1997.

The widening gap between the classes and falling part-time enrolment are directly linked to government cutbacks, argues Story. "It's simple mathematics that with less social transfers the greater the pressure is on raising tuition fees, and the greater the pressure to drop out of school," she said.

Martin, however, cautioned against using the government surplus for new spending initiatives. "I think it's important to understand that there is still a great deal of uncertainty outside of our borders," Martin told reporters Monday. "These are six-month numbers. We've got six months to go." Rather than spend the surplus right away, said Martin, the government should use it as a defence reserve against a potential global economic downturn.

But Bruce Campbell, executive director of the non-profit Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, says the government mantra of fiscal prudence is unwarranted.

"It's like the boy who cried wolf: it may work for a while, but now, no one takes his numbers seriously anymore," said Campbell.

"Everyone, no matter where they are on the political spectrum, who crunches numbers knows [Martin]-will have a surplus in excess of $10 billion."

Paul Martin encounters pressure to boost education

With such a surplus, argues Campbell, there's no reason why the government can't restore transfer payments. A poll released Monday by the Canadian Medical Association suggests Canadians favour such a reinvestment. According to the study, conducted by Angus Reid, 51 per cent of respondents said the 1999 federal budget should use the anticipated surplus to restore previously cut provincial transfers. In contrast, only 20 per cent of respondents called for tax cuts.

It takes a big man to admit he's wrong

Solictor General resigns over APEC controversy

Alex Bustos
CUP - Ottawa

The question on Parliament Hill these days is whether Solicitor General Andy Scott is indeed big enough to admit that he was wrong. Scott said his comments made him "vulnerable to accusations" that he prejudged the inquiry. That is why, last weekend, he decided to step down.

As far as opposition members of parliament are concerned, Scott's goose is cooked. Calls for the embattled minister to resign mounted last week after New Brunswick lawyer Fred Toole filed a court affidavit to the RCMP Public Complaints Commission in Vancouver.

Toole was Scott's seatmate on the now infamous Oct. 1 flight from Ottawa to Fredericton. According to his statement, the solicitor general told Toole that RCMP Staff Sgt. Hugh Stewart might be found guilty of using excessive force against protesters at last year's APEC summit.

Following Toole's affidavit last Wednesday, all hell broke loose in the House of Commons. "Newspapers from coast to coast scream for the solicitor general to resign," Reform Party MP Jay Hill told the House on Friday. "They say he is a dead duck on life support, that his credibility is in tatters . . . The only person who finds his behaviour acceptable is the prime minister. When did the prime minister's ethics sink so low?"

Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray immediately sidestepped the question. "The prime minister's ethics are certainly a matter of the highest level and we should be proud of the prime minister's actions," said Gray, speaking on behalf of Prime Minister Jean Chretien, who was in Malaysia attending this year's APEC meeting.

The question abuzz in Ottawa is how long the federal Liberals will continue to support Scott. Toole's affidavit is damning because it backs up the initial version of events provided by New Democratic Party MP Dick Proctor, who eavesdropped on the airplane conversation, that Scott had prejudged the APEC inquiry.

But Scott was nowhere to be found last week as opposition MPs once again called for him to step down. The embattled minister mysteriously disappeared last Thursday on personal business and wasn't expected back to the Hill until today. Scott's bizarre absence sent Ottawa political circles into a whirl wind of speculation on whether the government was preparing to dump him.

"The [prime minister] must be livid," Reform MP Chuck Strahl told reporters Thursday. "There is no doubt in my mind the solicitor general is going to have to step aside."

Scott's cabinet colleagues, however, were mostly mute about his fate. "No comment," Youth Minister Ethel Blondin-Andrew told reporters as she left the House Friday. Ditto for Treasury Board Minister Marcel Masse and Francophonie Minister Diane Marleau.

It took a quasi-ambush by the news corps before Government House Leader Don Boudria was convinced to address the issue. Asked whether he believed Scott, who has denied allegations that he prejudged the APEC inquiry, Boudria, shaking his head, replied, "What kind of question is that? Of course I have confidence in him."

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All Letters to the Editor must be typed or printed and delivered to The Underground before noon, Friday. The length of the letters must be restricted to 200 words or less. The student's name and ID number must be included. Submission does not guarantee use.

Letters will be published on the basis of relevance and availability of space. The Editorial Board of The Underground reserves the right not to accept letters containing statements which could be construed as malicious or libelous. Material submitted will be edited at the discretion of the Board.

Opinions expressed in unsolicited material such as Letters to the Editor or commentary articles do not necessarily represent the views of The Underground, its staff members or the publisher. By submission, authors implicitly warrant that no liability for any loss suffered through typographic errors, headlines or editing of the copy will be attached to The Underground, its Editorial Board or the publisher.

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Orange Pekoe Tea

Tobias sat at his writing table, pen in hand, and filled the pages with his usual banter. "The world is this way," he wrote, "because the other way is no longer possible. We are all yesmen for the apocalypse." He never considered his statements trite or overly repetitive. He just felt that nothing ever changed for the better. At least, not significantly.

The maid brought in his nightly dessert: a cup of warm orange pekoe tea, unsweetened, with a spoonful of milk. This he drank while smoking his pipe, and he drifted into dream.

Tobias witnessed magnificence. A tumult of colours blending together. Not blending. Moving through one another. Loving one another. The drama would frighten the optimist and ensnare the pessimist. Tobias stood in the middle of it all, swung through it on vines, rose above it on pink clouds. The earth vanished, became a memory. American military totalitarianism disappeared. Border disputes dissipated like smoke. Religious wars resolved themselves. Or perhaps Tobias merely rose above it all. Perhaps he flew so high that the world became a pinpoint, and therefore non-existant.

Tobias stroked his beard with both hands, rubbed his chin between thumb and forefinger. His dream went blue. "I've bruised it," he thought. "I've introduced concepts again. I've superimposed the real world again." And, indeed, he had. Blue became grey became white became black, and Tobias was left to endure it all.

Soon it was raining, and Tobias fell with the rain, became the rain. He was hurdling to reality, a miniscule facet of an incredible storm, a droplet in a downpour.

Impact.

Tobias found himself on the brow of a soldier and he ran to a cheek to obtain a better view. This was a strange land, much darker than the first. Steam tore away from the ground and battered the legs of the soldier. Tobias found it difficult to breathe and evaporated.

The tea-cup empty, the pipe snuffed out, Tobias sat at his writing table.

Schoolyard Antics

Jimmy, wearing his favourite all-star cap, rules the schoolyard. Some of the teachers consider this to be a bold statement, but they all recognize its validity. Jimmy is not necessarily a ruler. He merely maintains schoolyard activity to achieve whatever benefits he desires. The benefits, to clarify, range from immense lunch money surplasses to sole control of the communal sandbox.

One day Jimmy, in his striped shirt and combat boots, notices that Marco, a wealthy khaki-touting competitor (for all the children are competitors), has gathered the support of a small number of the student population. Jimmy suspects that they are plotting against him, that they are planning to usurp his powerful position. The following morning, Jimmy and thirty of his supporters attack Marco at his bus stop. They beat him, blacken both eyes, break his nose, fracture an arm, and sever one finger (as a "lasting personal touch," Jimmy thinks).

In addition to the assault, Jimmy imposes necessary sanctions through an organization that is largely subservient to him. He is pleased and immediately resumes his daily operation of the schoolyard.

"I am a specialist," he thinks aloud. "I decide what to control and I control it. I can manipulate anything. And this will always be the nature of schoolyard politics. I will always be powerful."

Tim Soucie

Warning: Writing for The Underground will not impair your driving

Letters...

Dear Editor,

In his latest harangue (The Underground, Nov. 17, 1998), The Angry Black Brother laments that "the white man is always telling black people that [we] should go back to where [we] came from." He goes on to say that the white man thinks the continent belongs to him.

Not only does this anonymous "contributor" show himself to be racist (I think you would agreee that a racist makes broad generalizations about a people based on his beliefs about the racial group of which said people is a member), but he betrays himself as ignorant and anti-rational by using cognitive distortions; specifically , "the white man" and "always" (telling black people to go back where they came from).

If I wrote a column in which I said that black people commit most of the crime in North America, would you print this? I think not.

Yet you have allowed this "brother" to make a very demanding and unfounded statement denigrating an entire race! He does not cite one instance in which someone specifically told him to go back where he came from. I don't think that anyone in our very politically correct society (especially in our micro-society here at U of T) would dare tell a black person to go back where he came from!

The Even Angrier White Man

Dear Editor,

I have a few comments to make about "The SmartCard: Not such a smart idea" article on page 3 of the November 17th issue of Underground. The article stated that the T-Cards are potential student election hazards because they don't have a validation sticker like the old student cards. When a student votes, a letter is being crossed out from the validation sticker to prevent that same student to vote more than once. T-Cards have a special validation page in the booklet that many people ignore. Without that page (and, obviously, the booklet) no student is supposed to vote. When that card was given out to me, I was told that the card *and* the booklet are equally important. I also had to sign the validation page of the booklet. Frankly, I was quite shocked that a GSU (Graduate Students' Union) member was unaware of this fact. My final words are: take some time to read the booklet, if you haven't trashed it yet.

One more thing, don't you think that the discussion of the washroom sex problem is getting as annoying and pointless as the Monica Lewinsky scandal? How much longer are we going to discuss that?! A week, a month, a year?

Rouben Tchakhmakhtchian

Correction:
ROSI is will be fully implemented on Feb. 10th, not Dec. 7th as advertised in issue 11.
For more information, catch ROSI on www.rosi.utoronto.ca

OPINIONS

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily correspond with those of The Underground

Remembrance Day: A Big Hypocrisy

Gaspar Queiroz
Contributor

Last week Scarborough students were told we should be "ashamed" for not having attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in the Meeting Place. But what shame is there in refusing to celebrate a senseless massacre that happened 80 years ago?

For four years, working class men slaughtered each other in the trenches. Over ten million died in the fighting while it is estimated another 13 million civilians died. Millions more were horribly maimed. Politicians, establishment figures, and army generals marked the anniversary with the usual pious words and crocodile tears. These hypocrites say the war was a necessary horror. But, the truth is millions of lives were sacrificed in the First World War not for freedom, but for the power and profits of our rulers.

Many ordinary people in Canada strongly opposed the 1917 conscription bill. They had no interest in going out to fight a war for Canada's rulers and their allies. Rallies and riots broke out in Montreal and across Quebec. But anger also spread to Halifax where Irish dock workers rioted and anti-war rallies occurred elsewhere.

War about empires, not freedom

Governments and generals, including our own in Canada, claimed to defend the "nation" against outside threats to "our freedom." But in reality the war was fought in the interests of the ruling class as part of their scramble to carve up the world for markets, colonies, and profits.

Britain, France, and Belgium had carved up half the world between them, with vast empires stretching across the globe. The British ruling class plundered half of Africa, the whole of the Indian subcontinent and much of the Middle East. It treated those it ruled over in the most barbarous fashion, as did all the major powers. Germany's rulers had missed out on the carve up, and wanted to get their slice too. But Britain and its allies would not give up a morsel of their loot. It was that clash, one rooted in the competition at the heart of the capitalist system, that sparked the war. As the rulers fought over their rivalries over the divisions of the globe, they sent millions of ordinary workers to their deaths. Anyone's talk of freedom is of the purest hypocrisy.

Revolution, not diplomacy, ended war

The war did not end because of the skillful diplomacy of governments and generals who ordered so many young men to their deaths. It was ended through revolution when German workers and soldiers rose up in November 1918.

The senseless massacres at the front, combined with poverty and starvation at home, began to fuel increasing bitterness and discontent among ordinary workers and soldiers. Hope replaced the despair of four years of war and hardship. Millions of workers who previously supported the jingoism of their ruling class began to discard nationalism.

At the front, soldiers faced huge class divisions. "The men slaved and engaged in perpetual drill, but the officers sat about idle, cleaning and polishing their fingernails and combing their hair," recalled one eyewitness. The generals sent millions to certain death for just a few yards of soil. They persisted in this senseless sacrifice, no matter how big the cost and how little the gain. At Verdun in 1917, some 250,000 French soldiers died for just 500 yards of ground.

The event which most decisively transformed the situation was the Russian Revolution in 1917. Millions of people in Russia were starving as a result of the war. Marches, riots, and demonstrations demanding bread grew into a movement which toppled the Tsar in February 1917.

Through the following months of turmoil and revolt, Russian workers began to demand not only bread but the overthrow of the system altogether and an end to the war. In October 1917 Russian workers succeeded and established their own rule through "soviets" or workers' councils. They immediately pulled out of the war.

The revolutionary events in Russia provided a beacon of hope. Mutinies on the Western front of the war escalated in 1917. Between April and September over half a million French soldiers were involved in mutinies against their officers at Verdun. They discussed setting up their own soviets. A French general reported "the revolt of the regiment" and "in several others, military policemen have been attacked and hanged, and in the leave trains, soldiers are openly singing the Internationale."

In September 1917, British soldiers mutinied for five days in the notoriously brutal camps at Etaples, and there were a series of mutinies among Italian and German soldiers and fleets. In January 1918, mass strikes against the war broke out in Austria, Hungary, and Germany. They involved more than two million workers. In Vienna, workers' councils were elected which demanded the abolition of censorship, the end of martial law and the eight hour working day. By the spring of that year a historian of the German army notes that "many new, young recruits" were "infected with leftist, anti-war propaganda." It was this growing and resentment against the war which would explode so decisively in Germany in 1918.

On November 4th, sailors of the German fleet at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven mutinied against their officers. Their uprising sparked a wave of mutinies and strikes across Germany. Hundreds of thousands of workers took to the streets in towns and cities and soldiers at the front laid down their guns and refused to fight. In just five days workers and soldiers toppled the second biggest empire in the world. The German King, the Kaiser, was forced to abdicate and flee, and the government resigned.

Democratic, elected councils of workers began to take over the functions of government in all major German towns. Rank and file soldiers also set up councils. They were sick of the war and hardship and military discipline. They were sick of officers feasting in luxury while they only had meagre rations. Their slogan became: "Workers of the world unite!" Soldiers' councils also sprang up in the field armies in Belgium and France. Revolution ended the war which had butchered so many millions. It was impossible for the generals to continue the fighting.

Real enemy at home, not abroad

Plunderers versus plunderers with the workers as pawns. That's how persecuted British socialist and anti-war campaigner John Maclean described the First World War. Another famous anti-war hero was German socialist Karl Liebknecht. He was the only MP in the German parliament who opposed the war and his words inspired anti-war campaigners everywhere. He declared in 1915, "How much longer with the imperialist gamblers abuse the patience of the people? Enough and more than enough of the slaughter. Down with the warmongers on both sides...The main enemy is at home!"

Winifred Deacon, now 101 years old and living in Devon, England, drove ambulances on the Western Front during the war. Two weeks ago she refused a "Légion d'Honneur," France's highest honour. because her memories of seeing young boys—the shell shocked, the gassed, the blind. All she could do was hold their hands as they were dying.

Today the same arguments used for the First World War are used once again to back a new war against Iraq. But just as we could not trust our rulers back then, we certainly cannot trust them today. The West's genocidal war on Iraq has nothing to do with democracy and freedom but all to do with power and profits for our rulers. The fight for the control of massive oil resources in Central Asia is at the heart of ongoing Western warmongering in Iraq. Students and workers in Canada have no interest in supporting these wars. The Mike Harrises, the Jean Chretiens and the corporations right here in Canada which slash social programs like education and throw people out of work to give tax breaks to the rich and boost profits are our real enemies.

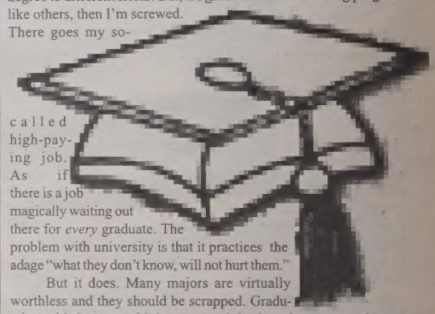
Justin Porter/UG

The Deal With Degrees

Natasha Marshall
Staff

I hate this time of year. Long research papers, back to back mid-terms and upcoming exams -- is it really worth it? Do those all-nighters actually pay off? What about waking up at odd hours to study for the first time? No, not really. It almost appears that all the professors got together and agreed that every assignment ahould be due within one week. I wonder if all this grueling stress is worth it.

After all, university promises so many good things, but are they achievable? Sure, I will be enlightened, my extensive vocabulary will impress others, and I will be able to apply my liberal arts degree to different fields. But, if I graduate from the wrong program like others, then I'm screwed.



There goes my so-called high-paying job. As if there is a job magically waiting out there for *every* graduate. The problem with university is that it practiees the adage "what they don't know, will not hurt them."

But it does. Many majors are virtually worthless and they should be scrapped. Graduating with just any old degree certainly doesn't guarantee instant success. Some of my friends have fallen into this trap. They decide to specialize in a certain program because "it is easy" and they'll get a quick degree. So what? Some degrees are just as effective as toilet paper.

Furthermore, how many professors or administrators actually tell undergraduates that some majors are useless, especially if they are not combined with another minor or major? In reality, some are simply a waste of time, unless a student knows *exactly* what they want to do with it or, by default, go into teaching. However, I am sure everyone can see teachers are not really in high demand right now. Look at Ontario's education system or ask Mike Harris himself. Besides, how far can a degree in geography take you anyways?

NEWS

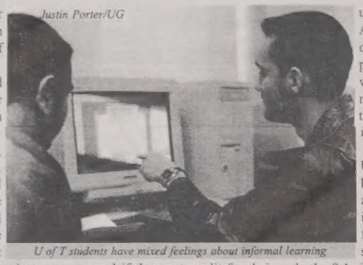
Universities of Canada must recognize informal learning, study shows

Mezba Uddin Mahtab
Contributor

Canadians are spending an average of 15 hours a week in informal learning, five times the amount they spend in organized education courses, states researchers at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT).

Dr. David Livingstone, director of National Research Network on New Approaches to Life Long Learning (NALL), says "Educators need to acknowledge the amount of informal learning most people achieve and address it through more responsive programs, otherwise many of these programs will hit the massive icebergs of informal learning and sink into Titanic irrelevancy."

Rubin Roth, another researcher, explains: "Informal learning is what people learn outside the formal, course based education system. It's what people learn and the skills and knowledge they acquire when they learn solely to satisfy their own creativity and interests without any returning credits." This includes, learning computer skills related to employment, communication skills through community work, home renovation and cooking skills, and keeping up with career field. Of the 1500 people surveyed, over 95% said they had 'informal learning' and over 60% said they would be more likely to enrol if they got credit for their casual learning. In light of this, what changes could be expected at the University of Toronto?


Justin Porter/UG

U of T students have mixed feelings about informal learning

This study, raises hopes of breaking down major obstacles. These include barriers that prevent people from enrolling at U of T or any other university. These are mainly due to money, jobs, social-economic, but also mainly due to academic standing.

"We would like to see U of T recognize what informal learning many people have. We should allow them to demonstrate their capabilities to the full, and this should be inclusive in the admission process. The amount of informal learning should be assessed and taken into account," says Roth. "Some institutions have challenge exams which I personally don't prefer. A better way in Canada is to use the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) and portfolio assessments, where individuals make a portfolio of their informal learning."

Some at the University of Toronto have mixed feelings about informal learning. Mona Feroz, a first year economics student, opines, "Why bother? As it is, it's already tough to get admitted at any university. On the top of that, if we have this informal learning, it'll just get tougher."

Selva Rajan Thiagaragan, a first year Computer Science student, summed it up best: "I think it's okay to ask for informal learning in the admission process, but it should not be a necessity or the deciding factor in the admission process. As long as people satisfy the basic requirements for their program, that's fine."

ARC to impose $50 levy

ARC *from page 1*

have paid in the past," she says and adds that her mandate right now is focusing on receiving in writing that the space left by the ARC, due to the re-location of such facilities as computer labs, can be utilized by students and clubs.

"It's a good project, but I think the levy should be reduced," agrees St. Louis, who is working alongside Moffat to find alternative funding means for the ARC.

Maknun Khan, Vice President of Administration at SCSC, agrees that $50 per student is a high figure but feels that students have to take an initiative to support the ARC and what it has to offer: "The ARC is important right now in terms of student need."

SCSC has agreed to support the ARC project, but has not discussed the levy or made any financial commitments at this time.

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COLUMNS

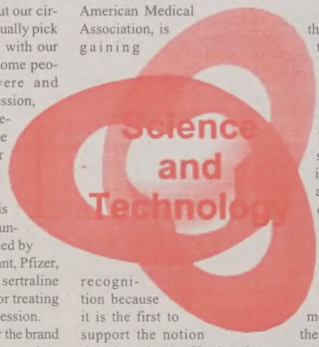
New Hope for Depression Sufferers

Vernon Appadoo
Contributor

At some point in our lives, we have all been dissatisfied with or depressed about our circumstances. But we usually pick ourselves up and deal with our situation. However, some people experience severe and chronic forms of depression, to the point where it becomes difficult to cope with everyday life. For these people, manic depression infects their lives. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. A new study funded by the pharmaceutical giant, Pfizer, suggest that the drug sertraline is safe and effective for treating chronic forms of depression.

Sertraline, under the brand name Zoloft belongs to a class of drugs known as SSRI's-selective seretonin re-uptake inhibitors. The drug is in the same class as Prozac, Paxil, and Celexa. Sertraline works by blocking the re-uptake of the chemical seretonin in the synapses between the neurons in the nervous system. This action is thought to alleviate the symptoms of depression.

The 19-month study, which appears in the latest issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, is gaining recognition because it is the first to support the notion that there is an effective drug treatment for the most severe and disabling forms of chronic depression. The drug is not currently in use for the treatment of chronic depression but has shown promise by eliminating recurrences of symptoms and extending remission times. The only statistically significant drawback to the drug is that some people may experience sexual dysfunction. Besides that, most test subjects reacted well to the treatment.



It is estimated that about three percent of the population experience chronic depression. Most individuals with the condition are also misdiagnosed with having psychological problems but researchers are starting to question these ideals. They believe there is a physiological basis to the disease. There also exists the social stigma associated with the condition, which dissuades some people from seeking treatment.

The study by no means implies a revolution in the fight against mental diseases. It merely suggests that when drug treatments are used in conjunction with proper psychological treatment, chronic depression can be overcome. Although researchers have yet to unravel the complex, intricate nature of the condition, the latest study is a step in the right direction.

Best Friend 'Billy'

Patricia A. Godoy
Contributor

Bill Gates makes my blood boil. I'm sure you're aware that my best-friend Billy is Chairman and CEO of Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft is a founding partner of Industry Canada's SchoolNet GrassRoots National Campaign. The program encourages Canadian educators to incorporate the internet into the classroom. According to Microsoft, the program will "make children's education more enjoyable and more effective." Don't get me wrong, that's a very nice, positive thing to say and all, but how exactly will children's education be "more enjoyable" in the sense that they'll learn the harsh reality such as the atrocities committed by big buisness against the Third World? The thought of the possible future that children will encounter on the Internet frightens me. Especially when corporations (like Microsoft) can polish their images by donating a lousy $1 million to a campaign.

I wonder which software they'll be using for this program... Netscape perhaps? What better way to cover their sneaky ways than to embed the Microsoft name into the minds of their subjects? It's a natural progression that the subjects of this project might ultimately purchase products they're already familiar with.

Industry Canada's SchoolNet GrassRoots National Campaign is a $15 million dollar project. The first $1 million was donated by Microsoft, the rest will be raised by Canadian taxpayers in the next three years. An anonymous report stated Bill Gates makes $1.3 million dollars an hour. Three years is a very long time. Of course, it's not Bill Gates' responsibility to fund the entire project. But on the other hand, he doesn't have to make himself (and Microsoft) look like sincere philanthropists either. Although he did give some money, it's important to note that the money is not from his own pockets. It's actually coming from the pockets of those who get ripped off when purchasing Microsoft products. That could very well mean you. In other words, he's using our money to make himself look like a contributing and caring individual, so that he can make even more money as a result.

I guess it's just easier to continue being unconditional supporters of business propaganda. But what's the point of living in the 90s if we're going to simply believe everything we see and hear without questioning with our own eyes and minds? Maybe we should ask the quarter-billion impoverished citizens of the world whose combined annual income matches the combined net worth of the world's six richest--including my best-friend Billy, no doubt.

Social Sniper

THE CARAMILK SECRET

Brook Land-Murphy
Asst. News Editor

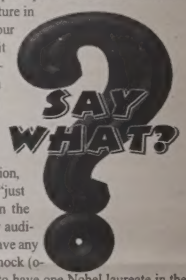
Dear Ms. Whynonna,

I have something to confess. I have, of late, been plagued with the most serious affliction. My waking and sleeping hours are commanded by thoughts of "The Caramilk Secret". You know, the egg-head alien ads, those artful shots of the caramel oozing out of the domes of chocolate... I get the shivers just describing it. But I am not writing just to burden you with my obsession. I was wondering if you could shed any light on the Caramilk Secret. I think it would be an important part of my healing process from the secret that has tortured me long enough.

From: Rocked by Chock (o-lat)

Dear Rocked by Chock (o-lat),

I am glad you have brought this issue into the public's eye. It is, I feel, a very important one. Further examination could yield some revealing insights into the murky waters of consumer manipulation. I do not have the solution of the Caramilk Secret. However, I can take a shot at the deeper issues of ad campaign and perhaps the causes of its success. Firstly, Cadbury played on human nature in their Caramilk Secret campaign. Like our fascination with fire, the drive to fit things in holes is common to all humans. From getting your head through the right hole in your shirt, to doing puzzles and making moats out of your oatmeal, fitting things together is a large part of human activity. The Cadbury marketers play on this fascination, and make the consumer curious as to "just how does the caramel gets between the chocolate?" Cadbury also gave their audience a realistic brain-teaser. Do you have any unrelinquished dreams Rocked by Chock (o-lat)? Perhaps some family pressure to have one Nobel laureate in the fam? The Caramilk Secret may represent one last shot at fame. This plus their play on that primal obsession equals one high-powered ad campaign. My suggestion to you Rocked is to switch to Hershey's, and root through your old toy box. . . maybe you can uproot some puzzles and satisfy some of those primal drives in a more rewarding way.



Ms. Whynonna

If anyone seeks creative (i.e. totally non-factual) answers to a question, submit them to the Underground office and Ms. Whynonna will give them a try.

What's in a Name?

Karen Heath
Staff

I'm female and a feminist. Feminism is the ideology that women are equal to men and should therefore receive the same rights. Most people who are members of the female species are feminists. Even those more evolved members of the male species are feminists too.

mouse trap

While these rights have taken generations of feminists to get, it wasn't until 1929 that the women of Canada were finally declared to be "persons". There is still a lot of work to be done. It is with all this work, yet to be accomplished, that I must question the 'y' in "womyn."

I can understand the unisexual meaning of certain terms meant to lead us away from the negative stereotypes of certain words. For example, the titles "steward and stewardess" have since been changed to flight attendant. I do, however, question the changing of 'manhole' to 'personhole' and things of that nature. But, I will never get used to the idea of the changing of women/woman to womyn.

Must we feminists really begin to nit-pick over such insignificant details, such as the proper way to spell womyn, without it being connected in anyway to men/man? Instead, let us continue forward in the quest to secure the exact same rights so easily bestowed on men.

BUY

CULINARY ¢ENTS

The Zen of Food Poisoning

Rolando Tecson
Staff

In light of all the talk about food, I would like to give a little pep talk on food poisoning. The funny thing is that not many of us realize it when it happens. Often, the few signs warning that this is happening occur within fourty-eight hours. The most common reactions to food poisoning are head aches, slight to severe nausea, and a slight fever.

These will most likely occur right after you've finished that yummy course of sea food--which could be 4-6 hours after you've eaten.

Now, in all the preparing of good food, food poisoning can really set you back if you have things to do. The best way to avoid the queasy feeling of food poisoning is to take certain precautions. As per usual, here's the the key stuff to watch out for. It doesn't take much work to avoid good old food poisoning.

Know thine enemy: For those non-science buffs, bacteria (like everyone else) want a home, warmth, food, and love. This is all heartily provided in the food you are preparing to eat.

PREPARATION:

* **Wash 'em**: Wash all the stuff you're preparing to cook. There's no point in telling you all the wonderful latin names of bacteria, because simply put, they're bad for you. Not only can bacteria survive inside such things as eggs, but outside on the surface as well. If you can use soap, do so, but remember to wash it off thoroughly. The best thing for vegetables is cold water.

* **Separate the squishy from the crunchie**: When you're still cooking, be sure to separate the raw food from the cooked food lest the raw food contaminate the cooked food.

* **Don't Refreeze**: Never refreeze food as bacteria can settle on the food while it's unfrozen and hibernate in the deep freezer until it's time to defrost the food again. Use frozen food as soon as possible to prevent exposure to bacteria.

COOKING:

* **"Well done" should be your mantra**: For all you meat-lovers out there who shed tears if your meat is not cooked right--sorry. Cook all juices until it runs clear, not pink.

* **Preheat**: Now you've all seen the cooking shows do it, so here's the reason why. Preheating will bring the pan to a high enough temperature to kill the little buggers, and not just cook the outside of your food while leaving the inside raw for bacteria breeding grounds.

* **Red Hot Servings**: The best way not to get sued by your guests is to serve your food HOT! At least 70 degrees Celcius or higher. The food should be steaming and should need a few minutes to cool.

* **Nuking?**: When you're using a microwave, the best way to make sure everything is cooked is to stop the microwave and mix up the food. Some containers and microwaves may not help the food cook well.

* **Oh, almost forgot...**: Never reheat more than once as this is just simply bad. The food should be cooled quickly, but watch out for accumulating condensation. Grab cold food last as time in the fridge will do it good, before you're cooking it. Don't purchase canned goods with dents, bulges or cracks as this may be the result of contamination.

STORING:

* **Raw & Cooked Food**: Store raw food below cooked food to prevent the spilling of their juices on top of the cooked food. Use the cooked food within four days! Never store food that came from a can in its original container. Tin poisoning results from the inside metal being exposed to open air and oxidizing. Last of all, never leave foods exposed to room temperature for more than an hour and a half.

Treatment? The most common cure for this is to sit it out in bed. They also say that Chinese Green Tea will also help cure food poisoning, though I've never tried it myself. From experience, the quickest way to fix an big case of food poisoning is to think of something really sickening and...yup, that's right. Puke. If all else fails and it is a danger, head for the experts, like the Health and Wellness Centre

Special thanks to the Michigan Department of Agriculture for the info (www.MDA.state.mi.us).

Corny Tip of the Week: When serving any baked bean products, the best way to soften the "musical" effects of the beans on your tummy is to let them soak in fresh water. Continue to change the water until you're ready to use them. Then cook the beans well until they're tender. Then again if you find flatulence fun, ignore this tip and eat them raw. (Heh heh...)

Comments? Suggestions? Recipes? E-Mail me at **littlepiggyCC@htomail.com**

Eat Well Folks!

Photography Department Meeting!

Thursday, November 26
2-3 pm (R-2203E)

DON'T BURY THE SCARBOROUGH SPORTS SCENE YET!

Ted Christou
Health and Fitness Editor

University of Toronto's Scarborough campus may be distanced from downtown geographically, but not spiritually. Because of hectic schedules, it is often difficult for athletes in Scarborough to take part in Varsity Athletics. Travel time is a real deterrent.

One won't find a abundance of Scarborough (or Erindale, for that matter) students on the starting rosters of many CIAU teams, but that is no way to measure the level of athletic involvement going on.

Inter-faculty action may be the first place to look. Scarborough soccer, basketball, and football teams are among the most dominant. They have earned the respect of all other colleges belonging to the University of Toronto.

House leagues are another prime example of first-rate competitive sports found at the campus level. Involvement and popularity rises every year. This leads to better competition, and skill demonstrated.

Changes to the recreational facilities are constant as well. The floors in the gymnasiums have been completely changed. For the first time ever, Varsity sporting events are being held this year in the Scarborough gyms. It began with volleyball, and may expand to include basketball.

With enough support, this trend could continue. Once Varsity sports start to seem less "distant", involvement will surely increase. It will become inevitable that the Scarborough students will eventually desire to be more than cheerleaders. They are talented enough to be stars, and deserve part of the spotlight.

In the shadows of Scarborough campus, an athletic spirit stirs. Anyone entering the Key can see that very plain fact. From the early throws of the morning, students of all ages and backgrounds are working and sweating in the athletic center.

Exercise is one of the best ways to relieve stress. Where better to find stress, than in a university environment?

If the plans for a new Olympic-sized swimming pool go through, athletic involvement can only increase exponentially.

ROLO'S RIP ROARIN' RECIPE

Rolando Tecson
Staff

From deep within the muddy holes of my room, I reveal this cool recipe to you. I trust you'll try it, keep it safe and warm as it is my personal recipe. It has been thoroughly tested on the gals of E5 and I would like to thank them and their taste buds for approving this recipe for consumption by university students.

This is a beautiful recipe that has been passed down from generation to generation of Tecson (Well, not really...). It is a good, wholesome vegetarian recipe that can compliment a meal or serve as one. For those meat lovers out there you could also add meat. The only catch is you will need two items that make the recipe what it is. The first is BLACK BEAN GARLIC SAUCE, which is an item that costs about $2.00. This can most probably be found in Chinatown or some specialty shops. The second is SESAME SEED OIL, which is also about $2.00 and can be found with other oil products. This recipe is fairly easy to make for the determined. However, it is well worth the trouble and keeps well in the fridge.

Carrot Pasta:

3-4 carrots
1 package of vegetable pasta (flat noodles)
1 tablespoon of oil
2-3 tablespoons of sesame seed oil
1-2 tablespoons of black bean garlic sauce

1.) Shred all carrots after being washed, and simmer in pan for about 5 minutes until tender with both portions of oil added.

2.) Cook pasta for ten minutes until tender, drain and add to carrots in large pan.

3.) Add the Black Bean Garlic Sauce to the mixture and mix in well; be sure to lower the heat, and serve when well mixed.

Total Cost: Aproximately $6.00 Total Prep Time: 15-20 Minutes

BODY BIG LEAGUES

Stayin' Alive!

Alcohol Advice

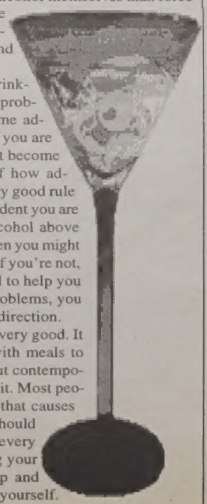
Teddy Bercovici
Contributor

There's no easy way to introduce this article. It's hard to tell people where to draw the line, because alcohol is so addictive it makes people very defensive. Hopefully, you're not "pissed" drunk while reading this. What can I say about alcohol that you haven't heard before? "Don't do it, it's bad!" Not quite. I'm a student, just like you, and I know what it's like, so bear with me.

Let me begin by saying alcohol is good. Gasp, not something you'd hear often right? Well it's true. But before you head over to the fridge, continue reading. It's good to an extent, much like everything else. One or two drinks with a meal is nice and relaxing, especially after a long hard day. I prefer a rum & coke with my meal, or a glass of red wine. I like going out to a club or a bar and having a nice drink, to relax and have a good time.

Do you notice something here? Even though I do use alcohol to relax, I wouldn't overdo it. I just don't see the point in getting hammered and crashing. I guess my reason is that I've been to several drinking parties and I see how people act, and yeah, we have a good time watching those who are drunk, but I could never let it be me, and I'd hate to have people laugh at me.

What about the pressure? Well, when we go out we all drink a bit, so no one is left out or causing the others not to have fun. There are times when I drive, and I refuse to drink. There might be pressure from people who don't know you well, but honestly speaking, a lot of people would rather down the alcohol themselves than force others to drink it. And there are definitely many of conscious people who know not to drink and drive.



Another problem with drinking is knowing if you have a problem. Millions of people become addicted to alcohol. Just because you are not old doesn't mean you can't become addicted. There is no class of how addicted you are or will be. A very good rule of thumb is noticing how dependent you are one the alcohol. If you put alcohol above all other facets of enjoyment, then you might be facing a problem. But even if you're not, and you constantly use alcohol to help you sleep and forget about your problems, you might be headed in the wrong direction.

In conclusion, alcohol is very good. It has been used for centuries with meals to relax and have a good time. But contemporary societies learned to abuse it. Most people do it again and again and that causes them to depend on it. Alcohol should not be used to escape from the every day. If you think it is changing your personality, take the first step and seek help. You have to control yourself. Otherwise, you never know where you might end up.

Ted Christou
Health and Fitness Editor

Very few things are clear about the 1998-99 edition of the Toronto Maple Leafs. One definite truth is that their front office is "muddled." A committee of General Managers has been established, each having a rough idea of his own role and responsibilities. This season, Mike Smith has been put in charge of making trades.

It is hard to judge the job he has done so far, because the jury is still out on his only significant deal to date (Mathieu Shneider for Alexzander Karpotsev). I personally believe that he got laced in this trade, but I am not above reserving my judgment until some more time passes.

What is disconcerting about Mike Smith is not the moves he makes, but the pace at which he makes them.

In the off-season, the Leafs signed free agent goaltender Curtis Joseph to an extravagant contract. Felix Potvin was already established as the starter, and his salary confirmed that fact. It became inevitable that Potvin would be traded sooner or later.

It is now later. Much later.

Toronto has holes on its team which must be filled. Mats Sundin continues to carry the offensive load. He will always do so until he is provided with a decent winger and/or a second line centre who can ease his burden.

The Chicago Blackhawks and Montreal Canadiens were both in desperate need of a first-string goaltender. Potvin would have been a perfect fit on both teams, but Mike Smith did not have serious trade talks with either.

An unhappy Potvin is caught in the corporate web

I find it odd, and so did the above-mentioned teams' General Managers. Over the weekend they struck a deal where they exchanged goalies and defencemen.

Felix Potvin is frustrated, and rightly so. He knows that he is no longer really wanted in Toronto, he knows he will be traded, he knows other teams want him. His teammates sympathize with him, and he has remained a gentleman while in this very precarious position.

All Felix wants is to be able to move on to another team and get his life back to normal. While he, his family, his teammates, and all Leaf fans wait, Mike Smith appears to be... what is he doing anyway?

Reports state he has turned down offers for Rob Neidermayer and Trevor Linden. While the former has had injury problems, the latter has thrived on Long Island where he is the captain of the Islanders.

All I can assume is that Smith is waiting for a better deal to come a long. Why doesn't he be a little proactive? Only he knows.

For God's sake, Mike, get cracking (and comb your hair, you always look like you just got out of bed)!

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No Sour Grapes of Wrath

Garth Jensen
Contributor

The Stage Centre Productions' presentation of *The Grapes of Wrath* recently opened at the Fairview Library Theatre, bringing a solid production of the play to life.

The production, based on John Steinbeck's 1939 novel, was polished overall, if somewhat flawed by minor technical difficulties. The cast did an admirable job of breathing life into the characters as the play unfolded. The play begins with the Joad family setting their sights on journeying from Oklahoma to California, where they feel a better life is possible. Danny Sullivan, in the role of young Tom Joad, captured the boiling intensity of the character, as the temperamental Joad takes on a leadership role during his family's struggles. Another standout performance was provided courtesy of Joyce Clark in the role of Ma Joad. Her warmth and honest emotion were clearly present as she channeled the character's supportive and motherly qualities.

The set itself proved the old adage that "less is more" as the stage was barely decorated, save for the Joad family truck in the centre and a wide screen that was used for specific backdrops. The set was particularly alluring due to the excellent use of lighting to illustrate mood changes, highlighting them appropriately, as well as implying the contrast between night and day.

The technical difficulties proved to be slightly distracting in some instances, despite the actors' tactful ability to compensate for it. The musical cues, at times, appeared to come in too late, or concluded too quickly. One example is the harrowing scene near the end of the play in which the loud cracks of lightning present necessary tension for that particular moment. The sound effects seemed staggered, as the lightning would start, fade out, then begin again.

Another case of musical difficulty was noticeable in a scene in which a group of car salesmen come to the front of the stage and sing. The actors seemed to be afraid to sing along with the pre-recorded vocals, especially during the solos. Despite that, the scene was still very enjoyable and it was necessary comic relief for many of the play's darker moments.

Joyce Clark (Ma Joad) consoles Danny Sullivan (Tom Joad) in The Grapes of Wrath

In fact, the somber tone was the hardest thing for most audiences to handle. As one patron remarked after the performance, "That wasn't the happiest play, was it?" The story is very gripping, albeit depressing, as it deals with the difficulty of the human spirit surviving in the face of corruption, greed, death, and broken dreams. That is not to dissuade anyone from attending; in fact, I encourage everyone to see this play because it is a powerful and very professional production of a literary classic.

"The Grapes of Wrath" is being performed at the Fairview Library Theatre, located at 35 Fairview Mall Drive (Sheppard Ave. East at Don Mills Rd.). The performances will be held from now until Nov. 28 on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 pm, as well as Sundays at 2 pm. Tickets are $10 for students, $13 for seniors, and $16 for adults.

For more information, or to order tickets, call 299-5557.

The Writing's on the Wall

Aubrey Reeves
Arts Editor

You are walking down the H-wing after a boring lecture, and happen to glance out the window, but something is obscuring the view. On closer inspection, you realize that it is a name printed on the outside so that it is backwards from your perspective. Then you realize that each window on the main floor of the school has a different name stuck onto it. But whose names are they? What do they all have in common? What are they doing here?

Anne-Marie Estrada, a graduate of the Scarborough Campus Fine Art department, has collected and affixed these names to the windows as an installation entitled *Nine Hundred and Ninety-Five Stories*, which runs from November 9th until December 11th. The names are a response to the alienation she felt at Scarborough Campus from the 'realness' of AIDS. She was always concerned about this issue but felt helpless in making a difference in Scarborough. To her, it seemed that the student body was unaware of the seriousness of this disease and the destruction it causes to the lives of the victims and their family and friends.

Justin Porter/UG

A strapping young lad peruses Estrada's installation

These names are only a portion of the many victims' names she has collected over the years. Their common bond is the suffering and illness which they have all undergone. They were probably all strangers to each other and to the viewer. Their missing identities make the viewer aware that AIDS can affect anyone, that the disease does not discriminate. Anyone's name could quite easily be added to that list.

Part of the function of an installation is to make the viewer aware of the environment it exists within. By placing the names on the windows of the school instead of inside The Gallery, the viewer is lead to ponder what relation these names have to the student body and Scarborough College. Could we, as students, have helped these people? Were any of these people students themselves? Is Scarborough College doing enough to make the student body aware of the AIDS epidemic and how they can help to fight it? These are the questions that the installation provokes.

CULTURE CORNER

Lisa Fenton
Contributor

The Prague Exchange is well underway. It is a creative collaboration between the Drama Programme of the University of Toronto at Scarborough, the Faculty of Alternative Theatre of Charles University in Prague and the Studio Ypsilon Theatre of Prague. At the core of the project is an international exchange between the two Universites culminating in a join performance of a new work.

A three year collaboration that began in Spring of 1997, the idea was conceived jointly by **Michal Schonberg**, Supervisor of Studies of the Drama Programme and **Jan Schmid**, Professor at Charles University and the Artistic Director of the Studio Ypsilon Theatre in Prague, Czech Republic. Michal Schonberg began the project by directing **Ben Johnson**'s *The Alchemist* in Prague.

On Noember 8th 1998, the project entered its second phase when Jan Schmid and **Jan Jiran** arrived in Toronto from Prague to conduct a three week workshop with Drama students of Scarborough campus. The students will be exploring male-female relationships through music, movement, discussions, and improvisations. All of the sessions will be recorded and used to create a scenario for a play. Schmid and Jiran will be returning soon to Prague. The work on the project will continue seperately here and in Prague with students there. In the fall of 1999 the two student ensembles will conduct a joint workshop, first in Prague and then in Toronto to complete the project.

Jan Schmid is a director, designer, playwright, author, actor and pedagogue. He has directed more than 70 productions over the last 25 years at the Ypsilon theatre. Jan Jiran is an accomplished performer, composer and teacher at the Charles University. Michal Schonberg, is an accomplished director with stage credits at the Stratford Festival.

SOUL

Ricci reads in Fine Art Studio

Aubrey Reeves
Arts Editor

Nino Ricci, winner of the Governor General Award, gave a reading in the fine art studio on Wednesday, November 15th. His selections were from his first and third novels, which belong to a trilogy about the Innocente family's travels and development.

Ricci was born in 1959 in Leamington, Ontario, to parents from the Molise region of Italy. His novels reflect his heritage in that they take place partly in Italy, partly in Canada. However, they are not autobiographical works; they stem from his understanding of Italian and immigrant-Canadian life.

After completing a B.A. in English Literature at York University, Ricci pursued a Master's in Creative Writing at Concordia University, Montreal. He later went on to teach Creative Writing and Canadian Literature at the university. In addition, he spent a year studying Italian literature at the University of Florence. Ricci now lives in Toronto, and is currently the president of PEN Canada, an association of authors that work for free speech and authors' rights in non-democratic countries.

Ricci started his career with a few short stories that were published in literary magazines such as Fiddlehead. The first manuscript of his novel, *Lives of the Saints*, was written as his master's thesis, and was then discovered and printed by a small publisher in the Montreal area. After that small run of the book, Cormorant Books picked it up for a much larger print. It was rated the number one best-seller in Canada for 1991, and was the winner of the F.G. Bressani Prize, the Smithbooks/Books in Canada First Novel Award, and the Governor General's Award for Fiction. It garnered the Betty Trask Award and the Winifred Holtby Prize in England, and as short-listed for the Los Angeles Times First Fiction Award in the U.S.

In a Glass House, the sequel to *Lives of the Saints*, was published in Canada in 1993. It is a coming of age novel that has received rave reviews in Canada. *Where She Has Gone*, is the final work in the trilogy. Ricci read aloud a passage from the first book tracing the Innocente's departure for Canada, and the second passage marked their return to Italy.

His trilogy has been translated into seven different languages, including Italian. It has received mixed reactions in Italy, since some believe that he portrays too harsh an image of rural Italy. Ricci defended his portrayal as a fictionalization, and pointed out that he has only visited the area a couple of times; therefore, he is writing from his parent's tales of that region.

Linda Gotter/UG

Celebrated author, Nino Ricci, read in the Fine Art Studio last Wednesday

CAUTION: MEN AT WRECK

Jacquelyn Berry
Asst. Arts Editor

Last Wednesday, Toronto fans got a treat.

Co-headliners **Big Wreck** and **The Watchmen** stopped in on the final leg of their North American tour to give a couple of rocking performances at the Warehouse.

The Mayfield Four is a four-member piece from Spokane, Washington who are on tour opening for Big Wreck and The Watchmen while promoting their debut album 'Fallout'. The Mayfield Four played a jam-packed set of heavy rock songs, any of which could be a future hit single.

Jacquelyn Berry/UG

Ian Thornley, devil man(?), led the wrecking crew through the Warehouse last Wednesday

David Henning, Forrest Williams, Brian Doherty, and Ian Thornley form the Boston based Big Wreck and were warmly received by the crowd throughout their whole set. There were many screams of "I love you, Ian!" and "double devils." Thornley, the lead singer may have resembled the devil what with his spiky hair and goatee against the red lights, but his voice and attitude was anything but devilish. This was evident when he hushed a girl after she screamed something about his penis, claiming his father was in the crowd.

"In Loving Memory...," Big Wreck's debut album has given us hit singles like "Blown Wide Open" and "The Oaf" that sound just as good in concert as on disc, if not better. The intensity of Big Wreck's live act emphasizes the power of their blues-based grooves.

These guys take their blues rock seriously as told by their passionate playing. It was easy to see that they enjoyed themselves too from their exuberant jumping around the stage. In the good spirit of the night, the band even treated the audience to "Comforting," a new song that they had been working on.

Last, but certainly not least, The Watchmen took the stage with an equal amount of passion for their music. The Watchmen consists of Daniel Greaves, Joey Serlin, Ken Tizzard, and Sammy Kohn who are from Winnipeg and are touring in support of their fourth album. It was easy to see why the group has such a dedicated fan base.

During their set, the group enchanted the crowd by playing some of their best-known hits including "Lucitania," "Boneyard Tree," and their current single "Say Something." During "Lucitania," Daniel challenged the crowd to echo his words. After a few rounds of echoing, there was a momentary pause from Greaves, then he admitted that "I've forgotten the rest of the words," which brought about an uproar of laughter from the crowd.

The best way to describe their music would be to say they are a hard rock band with a bit of soul. The soul of the music is based in Greaves' rich and expressive voice, which thrilled the audience when he did a unique vocal only solo.

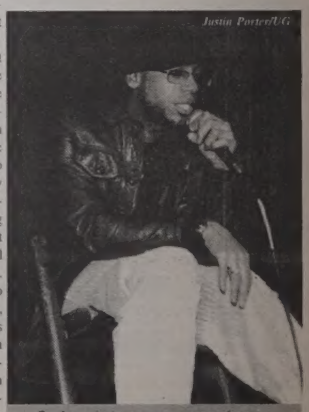
Last Wednesday was the first of two nights at the Warehouse for the bands, and no doubt a number of people could not get enough and went back to see them a second time. The bands are excellent performers and will probably be welcomed back to Toronto with open arms and plenty of "double devils."

The Kinara Society Presents...

Camillo Gibson
Staff

The Kinara Society, a coalition of black university students, produced a talent show last Saturday night, loosely resembling the amateur nights at the Apollo theater in New York. The show's host was poet Dwayne Morgan, who kept the crowd entertained in the interim between the performances, and warned the audience early on that, unlike the real Apollo nights, there was to be no booing, as only positive applause was welcomed. The show was well attended; there was the rare occurrence of the Meeting Place filled with patrons ready to cheer on their favourite performers.

The talent levels of the performers were varied, to say the least. There were good balladeers, and horrible balladeers, tight dance crews, and those who shouldn't have made it past the audition. The winners reflected those with the most talent, and those who elicited the most crowd response.


Justin Porter/UG

Comfort -- its important to every performer

The most energetic of the performers were also the youngest. RUKUS, a dance collective that appeared to consist of barely teenage girls, provided an exciting routine that worked the crowd into a frenzy. There were also some clunkers, like Jason Kinte's off-kilter poem about male virility, and Jason Persaud's butchering of Stevie Wonder's "Ribbon in the Sky," but these did not prevent the Apollo Night Talent show from being a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

PLAY WITH ME

Alpha Team, GO! Bravo Team, GO!

William Lau
Contributor

With those words, you send your elite troops into the fray. You heart beat rises as you pick the lock on the door, and rush into the room. Two Tangos visible. "Contact!" you yell, as you smoothly and automatically give each terrorist a quick 3-shot [illegible] now dead. You quickly run into the hallway--too fast, you realize. A terrorist is there, and lets loose a hail of bullets. Bulletproof vests are effective for pistols and shotguns, but against the AK-47, it's almost as effective as paper. As you fall down in your pool of blood, you curse yourself for not planning the mission better...

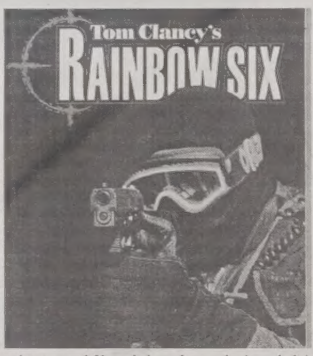
Ahh, the stuff that machismo is made of, the Special Forces, only the best of the best in the world. That is what *Rainbow Six* from **Red Storm** is all about. *Rainbow Six* is not an environmental group. Rather, it is a collection of the world finest counter-terrorist fighters, from six different countries (hence, the Rainbow and the Six). Created by **Tom Clancy**, who brought us *The Hunt For Red October*, this game more or less parallels a novel of his with the same name.

Rainbow Six has different modes of play, with a training option (shooting ranges, practice hostage rescue, etc.) and a multiplayer option (deathmatch, capture the hostage, co-operative). The bulk of the game consists of a campaign with 16 missions, in which you will be literally living a story worthy of Tom Clancy's fame. Unfortunately, the campaign is not dynamic, meaning that it is limited to a pass/fail and try again approach, [illegible] ning and the execution. In this game, all it takes is one bullet in the right place to send you six feet under. Realism is the key here, and that poses some problems, as I will mention later on.

The Planning part is a control-freak's dream. You get to choose your team members (up to 4 teams) based on their skills, the equipment they will use, and what teams they will belong to. Different team members have strengths and weaknesses, so remember to take along a demolition expert when you have to defuse bombs. After selecting your team, you go to a 3D map, where you get to plan every movement of all your soldiers. The player plans out where the teams will go, the rules of engagement (whether to kill everybody in the room, or selectively take out the terrorist and escort the hostages out), which "Go" codes to use and speed options. Planning is VERY important to the mission, as the success and failure of the mission depends mainly on the plan itself.

Once you're finished planning, you're ready to execute the mission itself. You take control of a member of a team and run your plan. The interface is somewhat clunky, complimenting the graphics perfectly.

In executing the mission, you will lead your team, and the planned routes will lead the other teams. The other teams will follow the waypoints, eliminating terrorists as it goes along, or getting shot up along the way, depending on your planning (and the AI, which I will discuss later).



[illegible] good human guidance, you can finish the mission and go on to the next one. If you happen to fail, there is no penalty for retrying. You can either run the same plan again, or create an entirely new one.

All this might sound simple, but really, *Rainbow Six* is pretty difficult. Some things that increase the difficulty are the very sensitive mouse (which I had a hard time getting used to), stupid Articial Intelligence (your guys will get stuck in a corner, and get shredded into dog food)' and the deadly fact that all it takes is one bullet to make your plan a failure. A patch is in the works (again) to fix up the AI and the mouse, but this is not a game for those with little patience.

Multiplayer is loads of fun as it takes a relatively short period of time to play. Deathmatch is always good, since you die with a bullet to the head, unlike a rocket up the ass in some other games. One of my favorites is when there are two teams, with one housed inside a mansion, and the other team on the outside trying to make a breach and enter the building. A cool option is that you can add a headset to your play, so you can actually [illegible] frustrating. You will scream at the computer to move out of the way, but you will also smile when you drop a terrorist with only one shot. The level of immersion in this game is unsurpassed, and the planning part of the game is truly unique. Players looking for fast action should look elsewhere, as this game requires both brains and quick-reaction times (and gobs of patience). And, as always, don't forget to get the patch.

Format: *Win 95/98*
Our recommendations: *Pentium 166MMX w/ 3D accelerator or Pentium II 266 w/o 3D accelerator Sound card, mouse, 32 Megs 'o RAM*
Rating: *Killing terrorist, saving the world, shooting machine guns and wearing facepaint is what being a man is all about. I would miss 8 out of 10 classes for this mofo. To learn more, check out www.rainbow6.com*

The Eve of Destruction

Dysan Macleod
Contributor

A game combining the postive elements of *Final Fantasy VII* and *Resident Evil 2*, *Parasite Eve* from **Squaresoft** will be a Playstation classic like the two just mentioned. *Parasite Eve* isn't your standard RPG, it's a full scale epic that completely swallows you and spits you back out in 31 flavours.

The story is based on a Japanese bestseller written by **Hideaki Seno**. The action begins in New York on Christmas Eve with the city buzzing with all the usual pre-Christmas festivities. The game opens with a night at the opera, but soon after, the female lead bursts into thunderous crescendo, triggering the audience to self-combust. This is the most dramatic and chilling CGI movie clip I have ever seen, if you thought *Resident Evil 2* was scary wait till you see this. A female cop, Aya Brea, sets off on an adventure to track down a sinister lead singer named Eve. The premise revolves around the idea that the mitochondria, an organelle in our cell structure, develop a sudden malevolent sentience. Mitochondria are the "power houses" of the cell, generating energy from the molecular breakdown of simple sugars. They also have their own separate DNA from the rest of the cell, and it is theorized that they were once single-celled organisms on their own back when the world was nothing but primordial soup. For some reason, they have begun to revolt against us, and patient zero (or the carrier of this cellular revolution) is Eve.

ILLUSTRATION: HOWARD LEUNG

From the time that the enemy within possesses her, she turns New York City into a chaotic scene of all sorts of strange mutations, spontaneous human combustion and all sorts of other weirdness. At the center of this is Aya Brea, a rookie on the NYPD, who seems to share some strange connection to Parasite Eve and the march of the mitochondria.

The action is played and viewed in the same format as *Resident Evil*, with the player controlling Aya and moving her around pre-rendered backgrounds. The graphics are as good as, if not better than *Resident Evil 2*. However the styles differs when it comes to combat because *Parasite Eve* utilizes the same turn-based structure seen previously in games such as *Chrono Trigger* and *Final Fantasy VII*. The main difference is that the battles are played in a real time environment, so you can run around the confined area and dodge enemy attacks while waiting for your power to charge up. There are hundreds of battles to be had in this game, you could be happily walking along a corridor when several snarling beasts will appear from nowhere and attack you. The more you fight and win, the more experience points you gain. With experience comes an array of magic spells that range from curing Aya to spells that will leave enemies stunned and dumbfounded. *Parasite Eve* also invites the player to search obscure areas for objects and this is where the main fault of the game becomes apparent. There is an inordinate amount of items to collect, but your inventory only contains a limited number of spaces, which leads to the annoying discarding of objects just because you don't have room to carry them.

Moreover, where *Resident Evil* tells you when a key is useless, *Parasite Eve* does not, which means you could be carrying around keys which are of no use to you at all. If only it had *Resident Evil's* inventory boxes. This fault can be forgiven to a certain extent because in a strange way, it does make the game harder, which is something no one can complain about. One thing I really did love about this game was the arsenal. There are loads of nasty shooters to be found, all of which can be upgraded via enhancement tools. Ammo also seems to be plentiful and this makes the arsenal even better because you nearly always have ammo for one of your massive and very powerful guns.

Another fault of *Parasite Eve* was the sluggish running speed. Controlling Aya is painfully slow unless you are playing with the Analog Pad, which helps because the further you press the stick in any direction, the quicker Aya moves. So, make sure you have an Analog Pad before getting this game.

Overall, *Parasite Eve*, does have one or two small problems. One of which can be easily rectified with the use of an Analog Pad, and despite it being just a tad short (2CDs), it's going to be a classic and deserves to be one of the most highly coveted games on the Playstation.

Format: *Playstation*
Our Recommendations: *Memory Card, Analog pad*
Rating: *Time to open up a can o' whoop ass. Square has come and conquered once again! I'd miss 9 out of 10 classes to study biology (yeah right!).*

EAR TO THE GROUND

Portishead Lives It Up

Tim Soucie
Staff

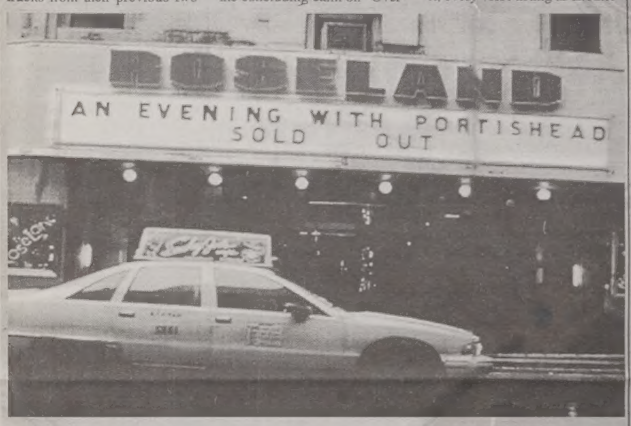
Portishead are consistently adept at manufacturing dark, sub-cultural grooves. The music is a combination of haunting vocals, B-line cinematic scores, dark lyrics, and blurred edges. Their latest submission, *Roseland NYC Live*, offers a live background to a collection of tracks from their previous two albums, *Dummy* and *Portishead*.

The mood on this album is comparable to Portishead's past endeavours, altered slightly by the additional performance of a small orchestral component. Beth Gibbons is virtually flawless as the vocalist; she is surreal in her projection, so much so that one finds it easy to sway between her layered contributions.

Songs like "Mysterons" and "Roads" are exceptionally well performed. The climactic burst of scratching records and the concluding calm on "Over" is hypnotic, while the sinister style of "Glory Box" invokes the carefree image of some black-clad Marlene Dietrich model.

Portishead sounds no better live than they do on their studio recordings. They offer minor variations, but hardly enough to clearly deliver any real difference in sound. But perhaps their music is intentionally stable. Perhaps the lyrics and melodies are necessarily fixed.

Regardless, one is always able to sink into the music of Portishead. One can swim with it, every verse acting as another wave to ride upon. *Roseland NYC Live* is Portishead in its prime: thick, warm, penetrating, and incredibly atmospheric.



Spring into Americana

Nikki Pappas
Contributor

The classic American lifestyle that is usually favoured by many traditionalists has grown into something that is hardly conventional. That's the view that the **Offspring** is revealing to us and continuously reminding us of on their new album, *Americana*. This being their fifth release, the band is coming on stronger than ever before. Although branded as "sell-outs" by many for signing with Sony Music and leaving the independent punk label Epitaph, this album seems to be going back into their roots. *Americana* has a sound that makes you want to go dig out that classic Offspring breakthrough album "Smash." If you liked that LP, then this one should be just as enjoyable for you, if not more.

Dexter Holland once again spews out crafty lyrics with his unmistakable high-pitched cries as the rest of the band plays their little punk hearts out. From reject wannabes of society ("Pretty Fly [For a White Guy]") to the tragedy of losing someone close to you ("The End Of The Line"), this album has it all. A very brilliant weaving of songs of all degrees, *Americana* will make you laugh and then, by the next track, will have you deep in thought about some serious, life-altering subjects. Out of all 12 songs though, the true essence of this album lies in the thrashing riffs of one song: "Feelings." Yes, it's that old favourite, revised and polished with lyrical parody by none other than Dexter himself. *Americana* is apple pie thrown in your face. One sampling of this album and you'll be saying "Give it to me baby" all the way to the record store.

Audioweb Lights Up the Sky

Zoë Cook
Contributor

Fireworks City, the latest album release from the UK-based band, **Audioweb**, truly sparkles and shines. Rarely does a band manage to encapsulate such a variety of rhythmic beats, drum styles and instruments as is found in this selection of eleven fluid and catchy tunes. At last Audioweb has succeeded in capturing the force and passion characteristic of their live performances on disc. The result is an intriguingly brilliant musical escapade that is a pleasure for the mind, body and soul.

Audioweb, a quartet originating from Manchester, England (birthplace of many a musical star), which formed three years ago. Signed to Mother Records, the group's self-titled debut recording pales in comparison to their much-awaited follow-up, *Fireworks City*.

Unlike their first record, the Mancunian band achieves a higher level of energy and charisma with their second record. All of the tracks on the group's new album excel in the areas of both lyrics and melody, offering the listener a selection of varied moods and tones. The opening track "Policeman Skank," is undoubtedly the group's biggest hit. It is reminiscent of the band **Black Grape**'s style, incorporating big beats with ragga elements and vocals to produce an extremely enjoyable and unforced masterpiece. The other tracks do not disappoint. Audioweb reaches new heights with their skilled combination of strings and guitars, dance rhythms and basslines. The result is so gorgeous that even the most adamant anti-Audiowebber could not help but fall in love with this album.

Audioweb: Notorious staring contest champions

Until you have heard the romantic and relaxing beat of "Freefall" and the sweet and catchy melody of "Out of Many," you will not have truly experienced genre-defying and audience-pleasing music. *Fireworks City* is most definitely full of fireworks!

FAST TALK

Irini Shehata
Staff

In support of her recently released *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie* album, Canada's **Alanis Morissette** is on the current cover of Rolling Stone Magazine. In the fairly lengthy article, the Ottawa-born artist talks about her trips to Cuba and India during her one-and-a-half year break from the industry and answers the writer's childhood-obsessed questions...In other music news, fans of **Blondie** can catch the new album, *No Exit*, February 23rd. The band will also be performing January 11th at the Annual American Music Awards, their first television appearance in years..."Not An Addict" was the hit single from **K's Choice** that raised questions over the band's drug use, or lack thereof. It will also be the song used as a backdrop for an upcoming commercial sponsored by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. The band is not expected to tour for their summer-released *Cocoon Crash* album until their guitarist recovers from a bad case of mononucleosis...It's been a while since we've heard from **Bush**, but hopefully that will come to an end as the band is currently finishing up their new album *The Science of Things*. While not yet confirmed, a spring release date for the album is the goal...January 31st is Superbowl Sunday and, recently, the performers at halftime were announced: **Gloria Estefan** and **Stevie Wonder** will grace the stage as millions abroad watch and listen...Today is the release date of **Metallica**'s much anticipated double CD, *Garage Inc.*, which features renditions, new and old, of the band performing the music of various other artists. Covers include tracks originally recorded by **Motorhead**, **Lynyrd Skynyrd**, **Nick Cave**, **Mercyful Fate** and **Bob Seger** among others...Finally, the **Rolling Stones** have decided to embark on yet another tour in support of *No Security*, the name of the new live album which is also the name the tour will be taking. Oakland, California is the first stop of the tour on January 25th, but the boys will eventually make their way to beloved Toronto on February 25th...

Gloria Estefan and Stevie Wonder are set to highlight the Superbowl

GROUNDWORK

Ivy League

Charles Mitchell
Staff

Episode 2:

Activity in the hall momentarily distracted Amber and Bryan. 1pm. Students moving between classes.

Amber folded her arms on the table and moved closer to him. "What do you mean we're gonna solve this murder?"

Bryan checked his watch and pulled on his goose down jacket. "I gotta run. I have a lecture."

She hated when he did this to her. Just leave her hanging like this. She got up, but didn't move. "Bryan what do you mean?"

He pulled his knapsack over his shoulder and smiled. "Meet me at the Key tonight at 7pm sharp." With that he vanished into the hall in the queue of moving bodies.

Amber reached for her Erickson cell phone and considered dialing him. She hesitated. She slipped it back into her tote bag and sat back down. So, her best friend wanted to find out who had murdered Brent. Yes, she saw what he had in mind. Solving Brent Anderson's murder would make them legends. No one at U of T at Scarborough, or St. George, for that matter would ever forget their names. They would be the most infamous students since Paul Bernardo. And the publicity would a great way to jump-start her dream of becoming a singer. She had a voice, and she knew it. She had sung back up for a few local bands, but nothing ever became of it. She had only come to university because her mother insisted. Living in Toronto was hardly New York. Yes, finding Brent's killer would jump start Amber's career. And for her, ambition was everything.

Okay, she understood now. But was it even possible? How could two 4th-year Commerce students possibly solve a murder case? But her intuition and years of knowing her best friend told her that Bryan already had something in mind. Meet him at key at 7 pm, eh? Hmm. She had a couple of hours before another lecture, just enough time to visit a certain handsome and flirtatious member of Campus police.

As usual the *Varsity* was a flurry of activity. Since its incorporation in 1880, it had quickly gained the reputation as the most prestigious university paper in Canada. It was located in an old house on St. George Campus. Recently the editors were esctatic with the jump in the already high readership. Since the murder of a Scarborough Campus student three weeks ago, circulation of the paper had nearly doubled.

A meeting among the editor-in-chief and the news department was called. The news editor, Simon Dexter had taken ill and someone had to be appointed to continue the coverage of the Brent Anderson killing.

Jasmine Lorris stopped in the hall and examined her reflection in the mirror. She was still surprised at what she saw staring back. She swept back her shoulder-length blond hair, and added some foundation to her alabaster skin. Yes, she could definitely call herself gorgeous. Things surely had changed since high school. Now she was a third-year Political Science and Economics student at U of T. Not bad for the girl who had been in so much trouble while at Western Collegiate in North York.

She knocked on the editor's office and opened the door. "I hope I'm not late."

Mark Hill motioned her in. The assistant editor and the assistant news editor were also in the room.

"Just a little. We have been looking over the work you did at Western," Mark said referring to the position Jasmine had held as news editor for the paper at the University of Western Ontario before she transferred to U of T this year.

Jasmine sighed. "I hope it's up to the *Varsity's* standards. Simon had nothing but glowing reviews for the work that I did here."

Mark smiled. "You're work has been excellent,"

Jasmine looked over at the assistant editor, Dale Carson. "What do you think?"

Dale was such an easy-going guy, half the time she wondered if the alternative music groupie wasn't stoned.

Dale played with his round-rimmed glasses that always seemed to be dirty despite his constant cleaning of them against his worn denim jacket. "I think you'll do well with this new position if you take it."

Jasmine's eyes lit up. "New position?"

Mark cleared his throat. "Dale blabs too much." He mockingly hit the assistant editor in the back of the head and continued, "I might as well tell you." He moved in closer to her. "We need someone to take over the reporting of the murder on Scarborough Campus. And we want you to do it. You're an excellent writer. And we know we can rely on you."

Jasmine was excited, but hid it. Her face projected both surprise and modesty. "What about, Sandra?" Jasmine said indicating the pretty black assistant news editor with the warm raspy voice and long Rastafarian locks.

Sandra grinned. "With Simon out, I have to handle things here. I need someone who's good. Right now with your experience at Western, you are our best writer."

Jasmine sat back in her seat and crossed her legs. Inwardly, she gleamed. But outwardly, she was a perfect package of professionalism. "If you guys have the confidence in me, I'll gladly do it."

This had all worked out perfectly. Jasmine couldn't have imagined a better outcome even if she had planned it this way. Reporting on Brent Anderson' murder was just part of what she had in mind. When she was finished, Jasmine Lorris would accomplish everything she had been calculating for the last three years. Things wouldn't be the same from here on out. She had transferred to U of T for one reason, and when she was done, she was sure many lives would be affected. So now it was official, Scarborough Campus was her next destination and her first step in a long thought-out plan.

Continued next week

MUSES

Eating a Grapefruit

Ben Paez
Contributor

With an equator to eclipse an orange,
I cradle it with two hands, wondering;
The skin thicker than porridge.
Where do I start peeling?
Is it worth the trouble?
I imagine the feeling.

So with four shovels I thrust,
Pain rushes like an ambulance.
Crash into the knuckles I must.
Only to chisel shallow dimples.
And again, I whistle:
Where do I start peeling?
Is it worth the trouble?
I imagine the feeling.

Attempt like a savage
Using my jaw
To commit carnage,
With visible bones
Only to reveal a pale white membrane
Of bitterness.
Imagine the feeling
Going through all that trouble,
Just to keep peeling.
Give me the knife,
So I can see what's inside.

Obscured

Serial photography by Shaun Dhani

Peace and Love

Graphic design by Greg Brown

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♍ ♎ REAL ASTROLOGY FOR AN UNREAL WORLD ♋ ♊

Aries March 20-April 19 You may be motoring, but ask yourself if you are going the right way. You may mistaken your movement for progress, when in actuality, it will take you longer to progress if you are doing something massively wrong. You also may have been feeling rather overwhelmed and moody lately but don't let it get to you so much; believe me, all of your problems right now are really just a storm in a teacup. Be happy, cuz it might just get worse. Remember, there is no point in promising the world and only delivering a fraction of it.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Don't define yourself by what you do, define yourself by what you are. Knowing what you can't do is just as important as knowing what you can do. Don't feel so bad if you haven't received what you wanted, because If you haven't received it yet, it might not be in your best interests anyway. Do you find yourself contemplating why it is that people who were really important to you before no longer seem very significant? Think on this: maybe you have moved on. Also, know that there is a fine line between determination and stubbornness--I think you know where you are right now.

Gemini May 21-June 20 As usual, there really isn't much to look forward to today, just work and more work. You are so good at telling other people how to solve their problems, but you can't even fix your own. Let me tell you something: everybody seems to be trying to give you advice about how you should live your life, but in reality, the people around you are conspiring to try and push you into following their path. Don't fall for it; you must find your own path. You shouldn't even be listening to these people because these are the same ones whom you find so hard to please. There's simply no point in trying.

Cancer June 21-July 22 I think that now is the time that you might be able to get on with your life. Yes, new ideas can seem threatening but don't be so suspicious, because best interest are better served by going with the flow. And, who knows, maybe things are really as good as they appear to be. Some new ideas may seem strange at first, but give it a listen anyway. They may benefit you despite the fact that they seem to be a bit abnormal. This week could be rather extravagant so maybe you should get someone to hide your wallet, cards, chequebook and whatever else that allows you to give into temptation.

Leo July 23-August 22 Much to your delight, HELL WEEK continues, but in your mind you know you've earned at least a little fun and surely there is no one who will begrudge you of that. There are other people who are bullying you and making your life more miserable than it is. They say it is just out of concern, but you know better. Make them eat their words, and don't go soft on your prey either. Drive it all the way and make it stick, my darlings, give them what you know they deserve. You deserve a little peace of mind, and this might just be the way to get it. After you are done, go out and get yourself a bit of fresh air.

Virgo August 23-September 22 Don't be shy, it only causes frustrations, and frustrations only get in the way and make everything seem horribly complicated. It is time to be brave and stand up for your principles because your energy levels are high right now. Don't just put up with things! If you know there is someone who is manipulating you, don't let them get away with it. You cannot continue to avoid decisions that have to be made; by doing so, you are only storing up trouble for the future and nobody needs that in their life. If you can be flexible, then there is an exciting life waiting just ahead.

Libra September 23-October 22 Put the dull old routine to the side for a while, and expect the unexpected. If you stay flexible, then you will be prepared to sieze new opportunities. If you want to have fun, go do it by yourself and leave your friends at home. Lately they have been affected by a negative attitude and seem really depressing. Don't let them cramp your style. It is just for a few weeks; soon they will be back to normal and they'll be able to have fun once again. If they do become a bit bitter towards you, the misunderstandings will soon be cleared up, so don't fret.

Scorpio October 23-November 21 Stop being so cliquey! Maybe it is time you enlarged your group of friends and stopped acting like such a snob. As ambitious as you are, there are some opportunities which even you might not be aware of. By befriending some new people it could keep you out of some major hassles with the old ones, and I am talking MAJOR hassles. As much as you try to avoid confrontation and argument, there is really no alternative. Also, remember that if you don't tell anyone what you want, you probably won't get it (Some people start shopping early).

Sagittarius November 22-December 21 Typical, eh? You are all dressed up, and there is nowhere to go. Maybe you have made plans that are outdated. You and some friends decide to go to a restaurant you haven't visited in a while. Then to your dismay, you learn that it closed down six years ago. You should have been more aware of what was happening. If you have talked yourself into a corner, the only way to get out of it now is to come out fighting. Just don't become too complacent, because you'll be the one who will end up in tears.

Capricorn December 22-January 19 When your heart says yes but your head says no, what do you do? Follow your head of course. It's like on an exam when there is a multiple choice question and you don't know what the answer is. Always choose "Both A and C", or "all of the above." Here is a rule everyone should know (Leo's use this all the time, and frankly, I feel everyone else should too): Never suffer in silence—fight back with fire. Let the whole entire world know how you are feeling even if it looks like they could really care less. If you feel pain then everyone should know, or at least be warned.

Aquarius January 20-February 18 Try not to trip over your tongue because it can only get you in deep trouble. I know you want the help of others, but you are not yet prepared to let them offer advice. Doesn't that seem silly? Well, you are silly. There are people around you who have been offering you some good advice, and you are making it difficult for yourself by ignoring it. Nothing is really going to happen to you this week, in fact it is going to be rather boring for a while, but make the most of it because it is the calm before the storm.

Pisces February 20-March 19 You've tried reasoning, you've tried pleading, you've even tried getting down on your knees and begging, but nothing is working for you is it? In fact you just don't seem to be making any progress at all. After all of this, you should realize that this is not the time for you to attempt anything serious or important. Slow progress shouldn't be an issue for you. You have bigger problems to worry about and you've got lots of patience. Be sure it is what you really want. There are times you should be slow and cautious and this is one of those times.

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